

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL

MEETING: September 14, 2010, 6PM

BEGIN: 6:10 PM

END: 7:40 PM

MEMBERSHIP: Jason welcomed the board after a two-month summer hiatus. Following a review of the member contact and term information, Jason pointed out that four of the current members will reach the end of their terms of service. Charles Norris, current CAC Chair, will be leaving after two terms, and Rosanna, Secretary, will be leaving at the end of her first term, creating two positions to be filled as soon as possible. Jason urged the board to think of suggestions for new members, particularly those with professional marketing, literary or performance expertise (e.g. poets, playwrights, dancers). He felt a member from the Public Arts Commission and another from the Board of Trustees might also be on the CAC. He also indicated that he and Julie would be soliciting and building the peer review panels for the CAC Grant Program and that there might be folks that serve in that capacity that would be good additions to CAC. Phyllis and Lori felt the board should exhibit diversity in both age and cultural background and heritage. Jason discussed the changing nature of the CAC and work in recent years commenting that there has been much more and positive dialogue between the board and staff related to programs and audience in the past 3-4 years. Jason also reported that he had met and spoken on several occasions with Diana Limbach to discuss her interest in joining CAC. Diana (resume included in CAC info packages) is a dancer with strong ties to the Harvard Dance Program working as both choreographer and dancer. He also commented on her more recent experience studying Urban Planning at the Harvard GSD. After studying her CV., Phyllis made a motion to recommend Diana for membership. The motion was seconded by Lori Damon and the group voted unanimously to formally recommend and accept her as a member of CAC.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jason prefaced his remarks on the Public Art Program with news that given the current economic recession and the enormous amount of capital expansion and improvement that has occurred in recent years it is his belief that the city will cut back on large Capital expenditures in the next 3-5 years. However, despite that news, he reported that CAC has been enormously busy and productive between July and September. Jason shared information on a project entitled **Park Spark** by MIT resident artist Matthew Mazzotta. The project transforms dog waste into renewable energy (by way of Methane) sufficient to light a lamppost in Pacific Street Park. He reported that this project along with Daniel Peltz's **Crossing Non-Signalized Locations** exhibition in the CAC Gallery have garnered an enormous amount of attention from large and small media outlets in the US and abroad. An example of this includes the Associated Press, BBC and most of the major media outlets in the greater Boston region.

Jason also reported that Mazzotta was chosen to receive a commission for permanent public artwork as part of the Western Avenue Beautification Project. CAC had arranged for an in-depth interview of Matthew with City TV-8 and the idea is that this coverage and documentation will continue over the course of Matthew's work on this permanent project as a good opportunity to document the process of an artist working with the city of Cambridge. Jason went on to discuss the effort to revitalize and "deinstitutionalize" marketing and web site communications. In particular, there is a major effort underway with Mia Moran/Emtype to re-design the on-line Public Art Tour including opportunities to make good use of GPS and smart phone technology for education and way-finding through the collection and city. Jason also provided information on the summer Public Art Youth Council projects and initiatives wherein participating youth from CRLS were provided with digital cameras for use in identifying "their" Cambridge. There

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL

MEETING: September 14, 2010, 6PM

was also an in-depth mural-making project as part of PAYC based in the city's Youth Centers and all of this work concluded with an exhibition and party in Monagle Plaza adjacent to the CAC offices. Jason reported details on the other highly successful summer programs, including *Summer in the City* featuring family movie nights and performances in partnership with the local business associations in Inman Square and East Cambridge. Thanks were made to all of the support from local banks and businesses that made these programs possible. CAC also supported Club Passim in the presentation of an outdoor performance series along Palmer Street in Harvard Square and the Central Square Business Association in the coordination and presentation of an outdoor arts series called Central Square Arts Outdoors. Jason also reminded members that the upcoming Revels *RiverSing* event will take place at the Weeks Footbridge on 9/19 and is funded by CAC via the Grant Program. Charles urged that the Board continue to explore business outreach this year. Lois and Phyllis suggested that more might be done for middle school and high school children in the city.

Copies of the 2011 CAC Grant Program materials were distributed. The submission deadline is October 15, 12Noon and meetings and workshops are already underway. Phyllis suggested that the CAC should let more people of all demographics know that the grants are available. The sub-committee recommendations for new grant guidelines was distributed: Applicants will be asked about the transformative effect of receiving a grant and give an approximate number of people the grant would impact. Individuals and organizations will be scored separately; direct contact with the applicant will be made by the primary panel reviewer; the frequency of grant applications from each organization will be considered; and a certain percentage of the grant budget might go to underserved groups or demographics as deemed appropriate by CAC.

Short announcements followed: The Cambridge Open Studios program continues to explore potential common venues, and all open studios will occur in the month of May or 2011. The Poet Populist Program will launch its nomination solicitation on November 1. The nomination deadline is January 14, 2011; after public readings by the finalists, the new poet populist will be voted on and announced on April 13. The Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center has its Grand Opening Celebration on October 6th, 5pm – 7pm and Phyllis announced the opening of her photography show, "**Central Square: Then & Now**" at the Clear Conscience Café in Central Square with a reception to be held on Thursday, October 21st.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro, Phyllis Bretholtz, Aliyah Gary, Lori Lander, Andrew Mroczek, Charles Norris

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Barbara Baker, Lori Damon, James Lawson, Matthew Weinberg